

## CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1 1. A PC system comprising:
  - 2 a plurality of substantially similar input devices coupled to a respective
  - 3 plurality of externally-accessible input ports of a PC; and
  - 4 a device discovery system that identifies a user-desired input device among
  - 5 the plurality of substantially similar input devices, wherein the identification is carried
  - 6 out by detecting a signal that is generated by the user-desired input device in response
  - 7 to a signal stimulus provided by a user.
- 1 2. The PC system of claim 1, further comprising a device configuration system
- 2 that configures the user-desired input device to operate together with a software
- 3 application program on the PC.
- 1 3. The PC system of claim 2, wherein the software application program is an
- 2 audio-video communication program that permits the user of the PC to communicate
- 3 with a second user of a second PC, via an audio-video communication link.
- 1 4. The PC system of claim 3, wherein the software program is a video chat
- 2 program.
- 1 5. The PC system of claim 3, wherein the audio-video communication link
- 2 comprises a digital subscriber line.
- 1 6. The PC system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of substantially similar input
- 2 devices comprises audio input devices, and identifying the user-desired input device
- 3 comprises the device discovery system unmuting the user-desired input device.
- 1 7. The PC system of claim 1, further comprising an output device that is housed
- 2 together with the user-desired input device in a common enclosure.

1 8. A PC system comprising:  
2       an audio input device coupled to any one of a plurality of externally-accessible  
3       input ports of a PC; and  
4       a device discovery system that polls the plurality of input ports to discover a  
5       valid connectivity of the audio input device to the PC by detecting a signal that is  
6       generated by the audio input device in response to a user providing an audible  
7       stimulus to the audio input device.

1 9. The PC system of claim 8, further comprising a video input device coupled to  
2       any second one of a plurality of externally-accessible input ports of a PC; and wherein  
3       the device discovery system polls the plurality of input ports to discover a valid  
4       connectivity of the video input device to the PC by detecting a signal that is generated  
5       by the video input device in response to a user providing a visual stimulus to the video  
6       input device.

1 10. The PC system of claim 9, wherein the device discovery system unmutes the  
2       audio input device to discover the valid connectivity of the audio input device to the  
3       PC.

1 11. A software wizard program stored on a computer-readable medium, the  
2       program comprising:  
3       logic configured to provide instructions to a user for selecting an audio input  
4       device from a plurality of substantially similar audio input devices that have been  
5       communicatively coupled to a first respective plurality of externally-accessible input  
6       ports of a PC; and  
7       logic configured to identify the user-selected audio input device by detecting a  
8       signal that is generated by the user-selected audio input in response to an audible  
9       stimulus that is provided by the user to the user-selected audio input device.

1 12. The software wizard system of claim 11, further comprising:  
2 logic configured to provide instructions to a user for selecting a video input  
3 device from a plurality of substantially similar video input devices that have been  
4 communicatively coupled to a second respective plurality of externally-accessible  
5 input ports of the PC;

6 logic configured to provide a dropdown list showing device identification  
7 labels for each of the plurality of video input devices; and

8 logic configured to provide instructions to the user in selecting a video input  
9 device from the dropdown list.

1 13. The software wizard system of claim 12, further comprising:  
2 logic configured to identify the user-selected video input device by detecting a  
3 signal that is generated by the user-selected video input in response to a visual  
4 stimulus signal that is provided by the user to the user-selected video input device.

1 14. The software wizard of claim 13, further comprising:

2 logic configured to provide instructions to the user for selecting an audio  
3 output device from a plurality of audio output devices that have been  
4 communicatively coupled to a first respective plurality of externally-accessible output  
5 ports of a PC;

6 logic configured to provide a dropdown list showing device identification  
7 labels for each of the plurality of audio output devices;

8 logic configured to provide instructions to the user in selecting the audio  
9 output device from the dropdown list; and

10 logic configured to generate an audible test tone from the selected audio  
11 output device.

1 15. The software wizard of claim 14, further comprising:

2 logic configured to provide a volume control icon;

3 logic configured to provide instructions to the user to operate the volume  
4 control icon to set a desired volume of the selected audio output device; and

5 logic configured to generate an audible test tone corresponding to the desired  
6 volume, from the selected audio output device.

1 16. The software wizard of claim 12, wherein the first and second respective  
2 plurality of externally-accessible input ports are respectively common ports.

1 17. A PC system comprising:  
2 logic configured to discover a user-desired input device among a plurality of  
3 substantially similar input devices coupled to a respective plurality of externally-  
4 accessible input ports of a PC, wherein the discovery is carried out by detecting a  
5 signal that is generated by the user-desired input device in response to a signal  
6 stimulus provided by a user.

1 18. The PC system of claim 17, further comprising:  
2 logic configured to link the software driver of the user-desired input device to  
3 a software application program on the PC.

1 19. The PC system of claim 18 wherein the software program is a video chat  
2 program.

1 20. A method of discovering and configuring a user-desired input device among a  
2 plurality of substantially similar input devices coupled to a respective plurality of  
3 externally-accessible input ports of a PC, the method comprising:  
4 launching a software wizard to provide instructions to a user;  
5 instructing the user to provide a signal stimulus into the user-desired input  
6 device;  
7 measuring a first signal amplitude that is generated by a first input device  
8 among the plurality of substantially similar input devices;  
9 measuring a second signal amplitude that is generated by the user-desired  
10 input device in response to the signal stimulus provided by the user; and  
11 processing the first and second signal amplitudes to identify the user-desired  
12 input device.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the user-desired input device is an user-  
2 desired audio input device, and the signal stimulus is an audible signal that is coupled  
3 into the user-desired audio input device.

1    22. The method of claim 20, wherein the user-desired input device is an user-  
2    desired video input device, and the signal stimulus is a visual signal that is coupled  
3    into the user-desired audio input device.

1    23. A method of discovering and configuring a user-desired audio output device  
2    among a plurality of substantially similar output devices coupled to a respective  
3    plurality of externally-accessible output ports of a PC, the method comprising:  
4                launching a software wizard to provide instructions to a user;  
5                instructing the user to select the user-desired audio output device from a  
6    dropdown list of the software wizard showing device identification labels for each of  
7    the plurality of audio output devices; and  
8                instructing the user to operate a volume control icon of the software wizard to  
9    set a desired volume of the user-desired audio output device; and  
10               generating an audible test tone corresponding to the desired volume, from the  
11   user-desired audio output device.